THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The review of spectrum pricing/charging is undertaken from time to, time, taking into account various relevant aspects viz, consultations with various stake holders, and the concerned Ministries, with a view to bring spectrum charges to a realistic level from the point of view of optimal and efficient use of the sepectrum.

Financial melt down in US

650. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the financial melt down in US is adversely affecting the prospects/profitability of Indian B.P.O. and I.T. companies which are linked to the business orders from USA;

(b) if so, the measures taken to salvage the position and project the jobs both within the country and that of the NRIs;

(c) whether steps are taken to keep these companies healthy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The financial meltdown in the US has had an impact on many sectors including IT and BPO.

(b) to (d) As per the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), most companies are working to increase their levels of utilization of resources and look to redeploy personnel within the organization where possible. The meltdown being a global phenomenon, there is only a limited amount of measures that individual companies are able to take. Some aspects that are being looked into by various organizations include:

– focus on productivity, efficiency, resource utilization etc.,

– wage moderation, optimal lateral hiring, etc.,

– increasing levels of efficiency for asset utilization like real estate, IT infrastructure, etc.

(e) Does not arise.

Mobile tariffs

651. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a move that will bring down mobile tariffs further, DoT has asked telecom regulator to undertake a review of the existing termination charges;

(b) whether termination rates are paid by the telecom operator on whose network the call originates to the operator on whose network the call ends;

(c) whether at present, the originating operator pays up to 30 paisa a minute as termination charge and the DoT has proposed to bring this down to 10 paisa a minute, which will bring down tariffs by 20 paisa;

(d) whether any final decision in this regard has been taken; and

(e) if so, the details thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has suggested to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to undertake a review of mobile termination charges based on present and projected cost and traffic.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per TRAI, The Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges Regulation, 2003 (4 of 2003) dated 29th October, 2003, at present, call originating operator pays 30 paisa per minute as termination charge which is applicable for all types of calls viz. Local, National Long Distance and International Long Distance.

DoT has suggested to TRAI to undertake review of mobile termination charges and has not proposed any such value.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Density of post offices in Jharkhand

652. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices operating in rural and urban areas of Jharkhand State;

(b) in what manner this number compare with other two newly created States, namely, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the density of post offices in Jharkhand per thousand population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The number of Post Offices operating in Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh (rural and urban areas) is as follows:

		Urban areas	Rural areas
1.	Jharkhand	272	2819
2.	Uttarakhand	218	2496
3.	Chhattisgarh	223	2900

The number of Post Offices in Jharkhand is comparable with other two newly created States, *viz.* Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh.